MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 APRIL 1982

Israeli-Egyptian Relations

Israeli Reportage -- Prime Minister Menahem Begin told the 18 April Israeli Cabinet meeting that the Egyptians are making a "sincere effort" to correct violations of the peace treaty, but that no progress has been made on the 15 border demarcation disputes, Jerusalem radio reported. The previous day, Jerusalem television noted that Egypt had rectified some of the violations after checking Israeli claims in this regard. The Egyptian Army removed several units and installations from the buffer zone east of the Ra's Muhammad-Al-'Arish line in the Sinai, according to another television report.

Prime Minister Begin met on 16 April with Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali, who conveyed a "friendly" message from President Husni Mubarak, Jerusalem radio reported. Mubarak expressed appreciation for the way Israel has carried out its commitments to the peace treaty and stated that Egypt has acted likewise, according to HA'ARETZ. Jerusalem radio reported that in his 16 April negotiations with Ghali and with U.S. Under Secretary of State Walter Stoessel, Begin proposed that Israel, Egypt and the United States renew their commitment to the Camp David accords by signing a document pledging that Israel and Egypt continue normalization and diplomatic relations, that hostile propaganda be forbidden, that ties with the PLO be banned and that Israel complete the withdrawal from the Sinai. However, on his return to Israel on 18 April after 2 days of talks in Egypt, Stoessel told Begin that the Egyptians had refused to receive, scrutinize or discuss the Israeli draft document, the radio reported. The Egyptians said Israel's publication of these proposals had embarrassed them and had caused Egypt to adopt a tough stand in recent talks. Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali will arrive in Israel on 19 April, the radio noted, advancing the date of his scheduled visit by 2 days at Begin is request.

Egyptian View -- Confirming that 'Ali will visit Israel briefly on 19 April, MENA said the Egyptian foreign minister's visit is aimed at finding a solution to the Tabah border dispute before the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai on 25 April. However, in a 16 April interview with Monte Carlo radio, 'Ali said the border issue may require discussions going beyond 25 April, but that this will not affect the completion of the final withdrawal, which he predicted will take place on schedule.

Reporting on President Mubarak's 18 April meeting with Walter Stoessel, AL-AHRAM said Mubarak told the U.S. envoy that Egypt considers the Camp David accords and the peace treaty to be the only documents that contain the basis for achieving peace, according to MENA. Mubarak explained that there is no justification for entering into discussion on pledges and new commitments, particularly since Egypt has not been officially notified of a request for such commitments. Regarding Israel's accusations of Egyptian violations of the military agreements, AL-AHRAM said aerial surveys have confirmed that there are no inconsistencies on Egypt's side and that inconsistencies are being eliminated as they occur. A 16 April Cairo radio commentary opined that while Israel has so far been honestly committed to the peace treaty, Egypt has always been more committed to the treaty.

Israel

Sinai Withdrawal -- Activists belonging to Rabbi Kahane's Kakeh movement threatened to commit suicide if the IDF begins to evacuate Yamit, Jerusalem television reported. However, the IDF began evacuating Yamit residents early on 19 April, Jerusalem radio said, after having closed the entire Sinai to civilians the previous day.

Gaza, West Bank Disturbances -- Two Arabs were killed by IDF patrols during riots in the Gaza Strip on 16 April, Jerusalem radio reported. Citing Palestinian medical sources, AFP said 40 Palestinians were injured, including 5 small children. A policemen and an Arab youth were injured in disturbances near Bethlehem and Nabulus on 18 April, according to IDF and Jerusalem radio reports.

Temple Mount UN Vote -- Prime Minister Begin has called on the United States to oppose the Jordanian-sponsored motion at the UN Security Council that condemns Israel for the Temple Mount incident, Jerusalem radio noted.

Egypt

Citing MAY, MENA reported that the Soviet Union has welcomed the return of its ambassador to Cairo at a time to be fixed by Egypt, which will likewise nominate an ambassador to Moscow.

PLO

The PLO is sending men and equipment across the Egyptian-Israeli borders, but it is doing so "secretly and without the agreement of the Egyptian Government," Hani al-Hasan, adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, stated in an interview with the Lebanese magazine MONDAY MORNING reported by Monte Carlo radio. Al-Hasan also announced that in response to the civil disobedience in the occupied territories, the PLO is getting ready to carry out military operations against Israel, adding that the PLO will continue to use all Arab fronts with Israel except the Lebanese border.

Al-Hasan also stated that Egyptian President Mubarak is earnestly working for a return to the Arab ranks, but that the PLO has set the condition that Mubarak stop speaking on behalf of the Palestinians, stop normalizing Egyptian-Israeli relations and close the Israeli Embassy in Egypt, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

Lebanon

Security Situation -- The Shi'ite Amal movement continued to engage in fierce clashes with Palestinian, communist, Nationalist Movement and Kurdish groups over the weekend, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. Both the government and a higher coordination committee comprising leaders and representatives of the PLO, the Nationalist Movement, Amal and the Syrian Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF) conducted intensive efforts to halt the fighting, which caused another 15 deaths on 17 April, bringing the total killed in 1 week to 60 and the number wounded to 150, according to Beirut radio. The coordination committee decided on 17 April to guarantee a cease-fire in the tense areas of Beirut and the south and to investigate the causes of the fighting.

Syrian Redeployment -- Citing Beirut diplomatic sources, London's ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reported that Syria plans to withdraw its 20,000 ADF soldiers from Beirut by 25 April and redeploy them in Al-Biqa' or another area close to the Syrian-Lebanese border.

Iraq-Syria Conflict

Iraq will ask the Arab countries to impose sanctions on Syria for closing the Iraqi oil pipeline that passes through Syrian territory, Iraqi Oil Minister Tayih 'Abd al-Karim stated in an interview with the MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY reported by Amman radio. He said Iraq will ask the Arab states to adopt firm measures against Syria for violating the principles of joint Arab action. Citing the Kuwaiti paper AR-AR'Y AL-'AMM, the radio reported that Kuwait and several other Gulf countries are examining ways to assist Iraq

Syria will not have any relations with the Iraqi regime from now on because the latter has killed scores of Syrians and committed many crimes against the Syrian economy, Deputy Prime Minister for Service Affairs Walid Hamdun told a SANA correspondent, according to Damascus radio. He said the Iraqi regime must be toppled as a precondition for a relaxation of the situation in the region.

Iran

Coup Plot, Shari'atmadari Situation -- Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri told a 17 April press conference that a group of "so-called ulema of Tehran and Qom" were involved in the recent abortive coup plot led by former Foreign Minister Sadeq Qutbzadeh, IRNA reported. The plotters aimed to blow up Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's residence, he claimed. Citing Tehran sources, AFP reported that more than 1,000 people have been arrested in connection with the plot, including middle class professionals, clergymen and "dozens" of revolution guards. Citing KEYHAN, AFP also noted that Ahmad 'Adbasi, the son-in-law of Ayatollah Kazem Shari'atmadari, was arrested in Qom on 14 April for supplying money to Qutbzadeh. According to Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali, revolution guards subsequently disarmed and replaced Shari'atmadari's bodyguards in his Qom office and discovered "counterrevolutionary" material. However, Shari'atmadari's son said in a Hamburg press statement that "fanatics" and revolution guards had stormed the office on 16 April, attacking and arresting the occupants, DPA reported. Shari'atmadari remains under house arrest, his son said, and cannot receive visitors.

Kurdish Operations -- Revolution guards launched an offensive against Kurdish insurgents on 15 April, recapturing 13 villages in the Marivan-Kamyaran region, according to a Guards Corps statement broadcast by Tehran radio. Citing JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI AFP reported that government forces killed or wounded more than 200 Kurdish rebels in recent fighting.

Relations With Pakistan -- According to an economic protocol signed by the two countries, Pakistan will purchase 10,000 barrels of crude oil per day from Iran, Tehran radio reported. The two countries also agreed to continue cooperation in drilling and exploration, the radio added.

At a meeting with visiting Pakistani Minister of Finance and Commerce Ghulam Ishaq Khan, President 'Ali Khamene'i proposed the formation of an Islamic common market, according to the radio.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation -- An Iraqi helicopter was shot down on the Abadan front on 16 April, a military communique broadcast by Tehran radio announced. Another Iraqi aircraft was downed by the Iranian Air Force on 18 April, according to a communique broadcast by Tehran radio.

Mediation Effort -- A subcommittee of the Islamic Good Offices Committee left Jidda to hold talks with officials in Iran and Iraq on finding a solution to the Iranian-Iraqi dispute, Riyadh radio reported. The committee, which is being led by Guinea President Ahmed Sekou Toure and includes Islamic Conference Organization Secretary General Habid Chatti, will first visit Tehran and then proceed to Baghdad.

Gulf Affairs

GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah said the GCC Ministerial Council will meet in Riyadh on 20 April, QNA reported. The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' said the extraordinary meeting is being held to evaluate Arab and Gulf developments, according to KUNA.

YAR

Truce Proposal -- The National Democratic Front (NDF) has proposed a truce to the San'a' Government during which the front would stop all military operations provided government forces returned to their barracks and stopped the arrest of individuals and all military preparations, Monte Carlo radio reported, citing an NDF statement issued in ADEN.

NDF Leader Interview -- NDF leader Ahmad 'Umar Sultan accused North Yemeni authorities of renouncing agreements made with the MDF, according to an interview reported by the Damascus paper AL-BA'TH. He affirmed that the NDF would not be intimidated by the repressive policies and assassinations carried out by the authorities and their ally, the Muslim Brotherhood.

Yemeni-Syrian Relations

A Syrian Ba'th party delegation visited the PDRY from 9 to 15 April, Damascus radio reported. In a joint statement the Yemeni Socialist Party expressed the PDRY's solidarity with Syria in its confrontation of internal and external plots, and the Ba'th delegation asserted Syria's support for the PDRY in its confrontation with "imperialist and reactionary plots," the radio said.

Meanwhile, former Syrian Prime Minister Lt Gen Amin al-Hafiz, who now resides in Iraq, arrived in the Yemen Arab Republic to acquaint himself with the achievements of the victorious September revolution, according to San'a' radio.

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UN ENVOY LEAVES FOR TEHRAN; COMMENTS ON TALKS

LD181734 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Text] Shah Mohammad Dost, minister of foreign affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, today held his final round of talks with Diego Cordovez, envoy of the UN secretary general. Sakhi Daneshjo, deputy foreign minister, who also present at the talks.

According to reports, Diego Cordovez left Kabul this afternoon for Tehran. He was seen off at Kabul International Airport by Sakhi Daneshjo, deputy foreign minister; the director of international relations at the United Nations; and the director of publicity and representative of the Protocol Department at the Foreign Ministry.

Prior to his departure for Tehran, the UN secretary general's envoy termed the outcome of his visit to Kabul as valuable and useful. He was speaking at a press conference at Kabul International Airport.

In reply to a question as to how he assessed the future prospects of his mission, he said: Unfortunately, I cannot express any opinion concerning the future of my mission. First of all my visit in this regard has not been completed, and at this moment I am going to Tehran, where I will discuss the relevant issues. Second, I would like to inform the UN secretary general about my talks, and he will tell the press about the results of my visit. Let me say I have carried out constructive and useful talks with the relevant Afghanistan authorities in Kabul. I express gratitude for Afghanistan's acceptance of the UN envoy concerning a search for a political solution to the situation. The talks I have carried out in Afghanistan have further encouraged me. I will inform the UN secretary general concerning the results of these talks. I hope positive results will be gained from them.

Answering a question concerning his visit to Tehran, the UN secretary general's envoy said: I expressed optimism at the beginning of my mission in this regard and there has not been any change in my optimism. I hope that in Tehran I will obtain useful results such as I have from my visit to Kabul.

Replying to a question concerning his visit to the region, he said: As I said, I am not in a position to assess the results of my talks, but as far as cooperation has been extended to the UN secretary general and with me personally I can say that I have been highly encouraged. Let me sincerely express thanks for the warm reception accorded to me and my companions. I hope I will return to Kabul and continue my talks.

In answer to a question concerning the flexible position of the DRA regarding the settlement of the Afghanistan issue, he said: As I said, our effort to solve this issue has been completely supported here, and this has been encouraging. I hope these talks will result in the complete political solution to the issue.

AFGHAN-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP WEEK BEGINS 17 APR

LD180620 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0521 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Text] Kabul, 18 Apr (BAKHTAR) -- The Afghan-Soviet friendship celebration week began in Kabul today on the eve of the fourth anniversary of the April Revolution. Thousands of workers, government civil servants and employees of the various organisations and ministries of the DRA, including thousands of instructors and students, had taken part in many of the meetings held on this occasion.

Dwelling on the traditional friendship and historical roots of Afghan-Soviet fraternity, the speakers expressed their appreciation for the technical, economic, social, education and cultural assistance given by the Soviet Union to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. They earnestly called for the further consolidation and expansion of such self-less cooperation between the two countries.

ERSHAD ON RELATIONS WITH INDIA, ELECTIONS

BK181628 Hong Kong AFP in English 1530 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Text] Dacca, 18 Apr (AFP) -- Bangladesh's new military ruler Lieutenant General Ershad has said he hopes the Indian Government will not take any decision which might cause "unnecessary apprehension" among its neighbors.

In a interview with the largest-circulation Bengali weekly BICHITRA, the 52-year old general, who took over as chief martial law administrator and armed forces commander-in-chief late last month in a bloodless coup, ruled out any substantial change in the government's existing policy on outstanding problems with India like the sharing of the Ganges River waters at the Farakka Dam and ownership of South Talpatty (New Moore) Island.

He believed that in resolving such disputes, India would show a good neighbourly attitude and take into consideration the requirements of the neighbouring states, General Ershad said.

Asked if he envisaged any change in Bangladesh's official stand on the Farakka and South Talpatty problems with India, General Ershad said no, but he made it clear that national interests and requirements would not be sacrificed in dealing with such problems.

"Despite being a small country we have never succumbed to any pressure", he added.

This is apparently the first public statement by General Ershad since coming to power on his nation's problems with India.

General Ershad reiterated that his military government would continue a "jihad" (holy war) against corruption and inefficiency in administration, adding that the crackdown on corruption would not stop until the last guilty man was punished.

He said that those who had taken shelter abroad would not be spared, and warned that those planning to leave the country would have to receive additional punishment.

The government was seeking the cooperation and assistance of the press in weeding out corruption and rounding up corrupt persons, he added.

General Ershad said he had fixed a two-year frame-work within which to achieve the objectives for which the armed forces were compelled to take power last month.

Noting that the holding of general elections for the transfer of power was part of the democratic process for which he had great respect, General Ershad said a general election would be held "as soon as the situation turns favourable to public interest", adding it might take two years or more but it was important not to speculate.

He said that his military government might allow national debate on certain national issues and problems including land reforms and issues including the role of the armed forces in national life and the system of government suited for Bangladesh.

General Ershad said he was eager to work out the basis for "a people-oriented government" in next two years, and that the opinions of politicians would possibly be sought some time in future on the problem.

He criticized political parties, which according to him were set up only to capture power. "Our political parties have no ideologies as such and are divided among themselves having no coordinated efforts. That is why they (political parties) have not been able to earn the support of the people," General Ershad said.

Replying to a question, General Ershad said that he would try to fulfill as far as practicable the commitments he had made to the nation.

"After that I will go back to my own place. I do not know what will happen to my fate. But I will not do politics sitting in this chair (of chief martial law administrator) and wearing the uniform. I will not lower the image of my institution (armed forces); I am not ambitious like many others. I have worked for 30 years to become chief of Army Staff, not for anything else", General Ershad was quoted as saying.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES DIPLOMATIC REASSIGNMENTS

BK190738 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Text] The attention of the government has been drawn to the highly inaccurate and speculative stories published in a section of the press regarding the transfer, termination of services, etc, of ambassadors and other officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This has led to unnecessary speculation and uncertainty. The current position is as under:

Certain ambassadors and other categories of officers have been recalled as their contract had not been renewed or had been terminated. The services of the five officers of Bangladesh Civil Service [BCS] foreign affairs cadre have been placed at the disposal of establishment division for appointment in other ministries.

Justice K.M. Subhan, ambassador to the GDR, has been resorted [as heard] to his current organization, namely the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

The services of the following officers of the BCS foreign affairs cadre have been terminated under Martial Law Order No 9: A.W. Shamsul Alam, ambassador to Romania; H.A.M. Nizamur Rahman, counsellor in the Embassy of Bangladesh, Ankara, Turkey; Habibur Rahman, second secretary in the Embassy of Bangladesh, Islamabad, Pakistan.

AFP Report

BK181215 Hong Kong AFP in English 1142 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Excerpts] Dacca, 18 Apr (AFP) -- A total 22 Bangladeshi diplomats, including 15 ambassadors and high commissioners, have been asked by the new martial law government of Lieutenant-General H.M. Ershad to return home within this month after completing necessary diplomatic formalities in their respective countries of posting, press reports said today.

Reports said the 15 ambassadors called back include Ambassador to the United States Tabarak Hussain; Ambassador to the Soviet Union Rashid Ahmed, and Ambassador to France Abdul Momin.

Others are A.W. Shamsul Alam (Romania); Justice K.M. Subhan (German Democratic Republic); retired General Mir Shawkat Ali (Egypt); and Abdul Ahsan (Italy).

In addition, eight ambassadors and high commissioners appointed for political reasons during the regime of slain President Ziaur Rahman have been asked to return home and their terms of contract have either expired or been terminated.

The affected ambassadors are Mahbubul Kabir Chowdhury (Brazil); Shamsul Islam (Indonesia), K.M. Hassan (Iraq), M.A. Barek (Kuwait), Abdul Hamid Chowdhury (Qatar), Sheikh Tayeburar-Rahman (Senegal), Mrs. Tahmina Khan (Sri Lanka) and Mohammad Faiz (Sweden).

The Foreign Ministry in Dacca had already informed the 22 envoys of the government decision and asked them to return home after completing the necessary protocol formalities in their respective countries.

Chief Martial Law Administrator General Ershad, who appointed a 12-member Council of Advisers with different portfolios after overthrowing Justice Abdus Sattar's civilian government last month, retained the Foreign Ministry portfolio.

GANDHI LEAVES FOR SAUDI ARABIA 17 APRIL

BK170650 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Text] The prime minister left New Delhi a short while ago for Jidda to begin a 4-day tour of Saudi Arabia. Mrs Gandhi is accompanied by a high-powered delegation including Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee and Minister of State for Tourism and Civil Aviation Khursheed Alam Khan. Minister of State for Railways Jaffer Sherif already proceeded to Saudi Arabia with a team of senior officials to do the spadework for Mrs Gandhi's discussions with King Khalid, Crown Prince Fahd and other senior ministers.

Talking to newsmen before her departure, Mrs Gandhi expressed her hope that her visit will create greater understanding between the two countries. She said India has always been championing the Arab cause.

VENKATARAMAN ON PAKISTAN'S NAVAL BUILDUP

BK171615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Text] Defense Minister Venkataraman today applauded the preparedness of the Indian Navy but said we cannot rest on our oars in view of the developments in some of the neighboring countries. They are posing new threats to India's security but our navy is fully prepared to face new challenges and fulfill the responsibilities to defend its maritime frontiers.

Venkataraman was addressing the consultative committee of the members of parliament attached to his ministry in New Delhi. He said Pakistan had been gradually building up its naval strength considerably and was in the course of acquiring additional modern ships, submarines and naval equipment. The projected naval strength of Pakistan will be far in excess of the genuine defense requirements of her limited coastland.

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON WORLD PROBLEMS

HK180029 Hong Kong STANDARD in English 18 Apr 82 p 3

[Report by STANDARD managing editor Ernie Pereira: "Arms Buildup Threat to World Peace: Rao"]

[Excerpt] Disarmament is the main issue and the arms build-up poses a grave threat to world peace, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, minister of external affairs for the Government of India, told the SUNDAY STANDARD yesterday prior to leaving for Japan with his party.

He said he was going to Japan for annual bilateral talks which will be held in Osaka and Tokyo.

The Indian envoy viewed with alarm the frantic buildup of military and naval presence in the Indian Ocean, the formation of rapid development forces, the general situation in West Asia, the Gulf war between two non-aligned nations, the continuing problem in Afghanistan and the lingering tensions in Southeast Asia.

All this, as he saw it, underscored the fact that "the epicentre of world tensions has clearly shifted from Europe to Asia."

India's role, he pointed out, was to try to arrest the situation which was fraught with danger.

The dangerous international political environment could be aggravated by the failure of the international community to solve some of the basic problems now afflicting the world's economies, especially the developing countries.

He stressed that "the widening disparities between developed and developing nations and disequilibrium in the major sectors of world economic system called for a new international economic order." This remains a major cause for concern and this new international economic order, in view of the inter-dependence among nations, can be achieved and is not something utopian, Mr Rao said.

Being an incurable optimist, Mr Rao said that, despite the arms build-up and what he termed "the continuing downward slide and rapid deterioration in East-West relations," he did not see the superpowers going to nuclear war. There is still enough sanity left in the world and no one wants to see the world blown to smithereens.

In his opinion, however, the worsening of relations between the U.S. and Russia was the "most important political development of 1981-82" and signs pointed to these worsening relations continuing.

The Non-Aligned Movement, which forms the basis of India's foreign policy, has a specific role to play, Mr Rao said emphatically. And the movement is a growing force. Originally, it numbered 25 countries -- now it is about 100 countries who speak with unanimity on issues that affect peace.

As for the role of the United Nations as a peacemaker, Mr Rao said that without the UN, "there is no one else," clearly indicating from his remarks that India fully supported the UN.

Mr Rao also warned of a new cold war which, triggered by fear, suspicion and mistrust reminiscent of the fifties, "has begun to pervade virtually all aspects of international relations and, by vitiating the general security environment, fuels a new wave of nuclear and conventional rearmament."

He added that the old strategic uncertainties, inherent in the doctrines of deterrence and massive retaliation, "are being aggravated."

He pointed out that new advances in science and technology "are also being utilised in improving and stockpiling chemical, biological and bacteriological weapons despite international conventions against their use."

As for India's relations with Pakistan, Mr Rao said there was no impasse. He was optimistic that India and Pakistan would agree to the proposed "no-war" pact, saying that talks on this matter "have entered a crucial stage."

Asked whether India was facing a crisis of any kind, be it demographic, economic, social or political, Mr Rao laughingly said: "Can you name me one country which is not beset by these problems?"

India's foreign policy activity and initiatives, he said, were aimed at strengthening a drift towards war and big power confrontations, arresting the nuclear arms race, reducing regional and international tensions and promoting a dialogue towards a new international economic order.

And Mr Rao believed that India has succeeded in "creating greater international awareness of the dangers of big power confrontation in Asia and to safeguard our national security and interests through non-alignment and the peaceful resolution of differences".

Reports that India was tilting towards Russia following the recent visit to Delhi of Soviet Defence Minister Marshal Ustinov sparked comment from Mr Rao that they were "exaggerated". India has been buying arms from Russia and this has been an on-going thing. But we have also bought arms from France, Britain and Germany, he said.

For Asia to have a stronger voice in world affairs, Mr Rao was of the opinion that there has to be first "an Asian identity and voice," from which to build an eventual Asian consensus.

On Afghanistan, Mr Rao said he believed that no country should occupy another country and the only way for the war to end there was for Russia to withdraw its troops. "We have said this before and our views are known," Mr Rao said.

Though not a member of ASEAN, India, he said he was interested in Southeast Asian affairs and was following them with great interest.

As for India's domestic problems, he said they were formidable and despite economic progress having been achieved, "we still have miles and miles to go." He said population control remains India's main problem and the second was that of power or energy. Economic gains lose their significance if the population continues to grow, he said.

UN ENVOY RETURNS FROM KABUL, HOLDS TALKS

BK151530 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Apr 82

[Text] Diego Cordovez, the UN secretary general's personal representative of Afghanistan, returned to Islamabad this afternoon after completing a first round of talks with the Karmal administration in Kabul. Talking to newsmen at the airport, he said he heard the views of the Karmal administration and became familiar with its stand. He said he cannot speculate on the success of his mission. However, he described his talks with the Karmal administration as useful.

Later, Diego Cordovez met with Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in Islamabad. The talk lasted for about 1 hour and will be continued tomorrow.

Parties Agree To Talk

BK181345 Hong Kong AFP in English 1332 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Text] Islamabad, 18 Apr (AFP) -- The United Nations secretary-general's special envoy, Diego Cordovez, has succeded in persuading Iran, Pakistan and Afghani groups opposed to the Afghan Government to sit down to talks with the government to solve the Afghanistan crisis, informed sources said today in Islamabad.

Mr Cordovez, who today returned to Tehran after his "shuttle" mission between Islamabad and Kabul, [words indistinct] to bring opposition groups to the negotiating table to prepare the ground for a lasting political settlement to the Afghan problem, to be hammered out at a later date in New York.

Mr Cordovez is the third UN envoy to visit the region since the Soviet Union intervened in Afghanistan in December 1979.

While the content of Mr Cordovez' talks with Pakistani President Ziaul Haq and Babrak Karmal and their foreign ministers remains secret, it appears that the Afghan Government made concessions to speed up negotiations. Observers here said the Afghani Government has agreed to meet with a delegation made up of opposition groups as long as they do not belong to Muslim rebel groups based in Pakistan, with which the government refuses to negotiate.

If a "national opposition" delegation were present at the negotiating table, Pakistan would drop her objection concerning the members of the Afghani Government's delegation, and direct negotiations between Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan could get under way.

Returns to Kabul

BK171118 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, has said that he had very thorough, constructive and useful discussions with Pakistani leaders which clarified a number of points which he wanted to understand.

He was talking to newsmen at the Islamabad Airport before his departure to Kabul for the second round of talks from where he will fly to Tehran on the last leg of his tour.

GUINEA PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR BRIEF VISIT 17 APR

BK171531 Karachi Domestic Service in Urudu 1500 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Text] Guinea President Ahmed Sekou Toure has said he will exchange views with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq on ways to end the Iran-Iraq war. The Guinea president said this while talking to newsmen after his arrival in Karachi from Pyongyang this afternoon for a brief visit.

Answering a question, he said his talks with the Pakistan president, who is a member of the Islamic peace committee, will be mostly about the mission given to them to find a solution to the Iran-Iraq conflict. During the talks they will exchange views on the international situation in general and the events in the Islamic world in particular. The Guinea president said he and his countrymen have full confidence in the leadership of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq welcomed Guinea's president on his arrival at Karachi Airport. Sind Governor Lt Gen S.M. Abbasi, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, provincial ministers and prominent citizens were also present at the airport to welcome him.

Talks With Haq

BK180658 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Guinea President Sekou Toure held talks in Karachi last night on future efforts of the Islamic peace committee to find a peaceful resolution to the Iran-Iraq conflict. Sekou Toure, the chairman of the Islamic peace committee, exchanged views with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, who is a member of the committee, and made various proposals in this connection. Desecration of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and latest developments in the Middle East also figured in the talks. The international situation and Pakistan-Guinea bilateral cooperation were also reviewed. Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and Guinea Foreign Minister Abdoulaye El Hadj Toure also participated in the talks.

Later President Mohammad Ziaul Haq hosted a banquet in honor of President Sekou Toure.

Leaves for Home

BK180700 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Text] Guinea President Ahmed Sekou Toure left Karachi for Conakry this morning after a visit to Pakistan. Sind Governor Lt Gen S.M. Abbasi, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, provincial ministers and others saw him off at the airport.

FINANCE MINISTER LEADS DELEGATION TO IRAN

BK170815 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Text] A high-powered economic and trade delegation led by Federal Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan left Islamabad for Tehran this morning. The delegation will exchange views with the Iranian authorities on bilateral economic and trade relations. Radio Pakistan's representative reports that the Tehran talks will be a continuation of the negotiations held during the visit to Islamabad of the Iranian high-powered delegation led by Foreign Minister Velayati.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH USSR

GF181938 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Text] Pakistan and the Soviet Union have signed a cultural exchange program for 1981-83 in Moscow. Under the agreement both countries will exchange delegations and experts in the fields of art, culture, science, education, information media, health and sports.

ARMED FORCES DAY MARKED IN TEHRAN 18 APR

Zahirnezhad Speaks at Parade

LD182102 Tehran IRNA in English 1942 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Text] Tehran, 18 Apr (IRNA) -- Hundreds of the officers and personnel of the armed forces, today marked past the holy Koran at Azadi Square of Tehran to mark Armed Forces Day.

As a number of fighter planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran were flying overheads parachuters bailed out of the planes and performed acrobatic feats. During the ceremony, a hoard of artillery impounded from enemy troops in the battlefronts were also displayed to the public.

Meanwhile the chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, General Zahirnezhad, today said in a communique on the occasion of Armed Forces Day that three years after the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran and 19 months since the outbreak of the undeclared war, the Armed Forces of Iran were still much more capable that what they were during the monarchical regime. The chief of the Joint Staff said in his communique that as a result of the spiritual values of the Islamic revolution, and also as a result of the transformation of ethical values among the rank and file members of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic, the army had turned into an entity of devout and faithful people consecrated to the task of fighting for the cause of God.

He said despite the insinuations of the counterrevolutionaries for dissolving the body of the armed forces immediately after the culmination of the Islamic Republic for incapacitating the defence capability of the Islamic Republic and despite the various and many inroads by leftist and other outlawed groups against the armed forces, the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran had so far successfully repelled enemy attacks during the undeclared war.

The general recalled in his communique that while Imperial Armed Forces in Iran proved incapable of resisting enemy attacks against Iran in any of the battlefronts in the year 1941, today the army was registering records of astounding triumphs in the battlefronts against the Iraqi Ba'thist invaders. Said he in the communique: "Such is the result of the leadership of Imam Khomeyni of the armed forces, such is the product of the spirit of Islamic brotherhood, such is the effect of Islamic rule, and such is the lord's invisible aid..."

During the march at Azadi Square, thousands of bystanders shouted slogans in condemnation of the United States and Saddam Husayn of Iraq. The ceremony ended at 1100 hours.

Khomeyni Message

LD181054 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Message issued by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni as commander in chief of the armed forces on the occasion of Armed Forces Day -- read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Armed Forces Day is no different from people's day in the Islamic Republic and, thanks to Almighty God, the army is popular and at the service of the people and there is a strong bond of uniformity between the people and the army, so that they are both parts of a united body. Armed Forces Day is people's day.

However, declaring a day as Armed Forces Day provides us with an opportunity to express proper and fitting gratitude and to praise their warlike and combative faces. The honorable nation of Iran wishes to congratulate the armed forces on 18 April, Armed Forces Day.

This year we thank Almighty God for the victories achieved by the armed forces and other forces of the Iranian nation, and for the long-lasting honor gained for the Islamic nation by their victories, especially the Fath al-Mubin victory, which made the proud nation's congratulations this year all the more serious. Long live the armed forces and the army, and honor to the country of the hidden imam -- may our souls be sacrificed for his coming, for having such committed and selfless soldiers.

In this imposed war, fighting for our rights, the Iranian Army and other armed forces proved to the world that the crusaders fighting for their goal of dear Islam and the great homeland enjoy the support of a hidden and supernatural power which exceeds the calculations of the oppressive palace dwellers. This power cannot be gauged by blind-hearted infidels' estimations and cannot be foiled by atheist measures.

What measures and estimations can threaten Fath al-Mubin, and what formula can calculate the outcome of an unequal war, on one side of which there is a satanic power equipped with all heavy and light weapons of war, enjoying the unreserved support of the superpowers and many of the countries of the region who with open arms and smiling faces put all their facilities at its disposal, enjoying the support of all the propaganda machines of the world and possessing all the means of increasing their strength? On the other side, there are the armed forces which were born after the revolution and its victory, when its army had just rid itself of the domination of American advisers and commanders of the oppressive monarchy and had been transformed from a satanic regime to an Islamic and humane regime. Our Revolution Guards Corps and the Mobilization force had just been formed from the people and had just been armed with rifles, not having had proper military education and not having proper warfare machinery at their disposal, and with all the signs of weakness apparent in them. Only their faith in God, love of martyrdom for Islam and a spirit of self-sacrifice assisted them in this unequal war. In a single week they succeeded in crushing the great satanic forces and smashed this well-equipped and well-planned army so that groups of their soldiers with all their equipment surrendered to our forces, fled the scene or were killed.

Which intelligence analysts or those educated in military academies can analyze this miraculous victory? If the army and other armed forces did not enjoy the spiritual divine assistance, how otherwise could this extraordinary affair be explained? Yes, there is a great difference between the youths who spend the night in prayer, reciting the Koran and meditating who begin the war with God's name and cries of "God is great," and those who commit sins at night and begin the day fighting against God. There is a great difference between those trenches which have God's book, religious books and prayer books, and those trenches which according to the account of the victors, house gambling equipment, wine and worse. There is a difference between those who, believing that the hidden imam is their commander, continue their fight and those who are led by Saddam, the archcriminal. There is a difference between those who consider themselves the brothers of the Muslim nation of Iraq and never allow themselves to attack towns or villages of their brothers, and those who open fire on towns and villages, in spite of their Arab inhabitants and, claiming to fight for the Arab cause, slaughter innocent children, women and old men. There is a difference between those who treat the prisoners of war as their own brothers, and those who take prisoner of war among people from Arab-populated villages and towns who were not involved in the war, and treat them so savagely that they are now frightened to let their families visit them.

Thanks to Almighty God, we have an army today that glows with honor in the world. This year, the nation of Iran is observing Armed Forces Day with an unprecedented sense of honor and pride, and the army stands before the enemy with unprecedented success, and we hope that each year its honor will surpass that of previous years.

I would like to make some recommendations here, although you might be aware of them yourselves:

1. Do not forget the hidden divine blessings and all the military and police forces and the armed forces should try to guard these blessings for yourselves and for the nation by acting according to your commitments and sacrificing as much as possible for Islam and the Islamic Republic for Almighty God. Be vigilant for Almighty God and not for your worldly and satanic whims, but for defending Islam and your homeland. Do not allow these victories to overwhelm you and make you forget the divine assistance, since pride and ignorance drive man to destruction and obviously reduce our military might. After trusting in God, trust your own power which comes from God.

2. You know that these victories were achieved because of the unity of all the armed forces, following one plan and one thought. You should maintain this uniformity and unity. Any hesitation in this respect will cause (?weakness) and, God forbid, defeat, and if anyone or any movement tries to create division, you should inform your commanders immediately so that it can be stopped. All the armed forces in the Islamic Republic work for one goal and one destination, and all should operate like a united hand against the foes and enemies of Islam and the Islamic Republic. You should be aware that so long as this unity and uniformity and this supreme Islamic goal exists your country will not be harmed.

I advise the brothers in the armed forces, the guards, the police, the gendarmerie, the Mobilization forces and other popular armed forces to consider each other as brothers, as the holy Koran says, and remain united in your thoughts, your path and your slogans like brothers, both on the frontline and behind it, since you can overcome your problems and enjoy the support of divine hidden spiritual forces only by doing so. May God protect you and support you.

3. One important issue that all the armed forces should follow and which cannot be ignored under any circumstances, as I have mentioned before, is that none of the armed forces personnel, from the higher or the lower ranks, should join any party or group by whatever name or title, even if that party or group is 100-percent Islamic and committed to the Islamic Republic. Anyone who does join a party or a group should resign from the army, the Guards Corps or other armed, military or police forces. Commanders and officials in charge are obligated to advise anyone who joins one of the parties or religious or political groups to leave that party, group or orgranization and, if he refuses, he should be dismissed from the army or other armed forces. All personnel are obligated to report such persons to their commanders. It should be noted that if the armed forces join any parties, groups or organizations they would be weakened, and any departures from this order will be followed up.

4. We all know that the Iranian Armed Forces and all other forces enjoy the unprecedented and unreserved support of the nation all over the country. I do not think that anyone would claim that any country other than the esteemed nation of Iran could support their armed forces, young and old, man or women all over the country and generously volunteer to go to the fronts to sacrifice themselves and be martyred. I do not think that anything other than belief in the teachings [of Islam] and sacrifice for God and the spiritual aim could explain this mystery.

I would like to advise the dear army and others to treasure this divine blessing and try with all your might to maintain the general vigilance of the nation and this great support by being steadfast and constant in following your objective and self-sacrifice for dear Islam, Iran and the Islamic Republic. As long as you remain united and uniform and vigilant in guarding your nation, Islam and the Islamic Republic, you should not fear the conspiracies of the enemies of Islam to topple the Islamic Republic and you should stand before them like a steel barrier. You should hold your heads high, attack the criminal aggressors and crush them. The great nation supports you with its heart and follows the same direction.

God's blessing hand and His unlimited power shelters you. May you be victorious. Go forward with strength and throw the enemies of God out of our country. Cut the internal and external criminal hands from our country and ask for help from Almighty God.

5. The generous nation of Iran has sacrificed many of its dear ones on the fronts and behind the frontline and has suffered many pains and hardships. It has seen many tricks by committed, treacherous enemies in the guise of friends, but it has remained honorable and respectable before God and an example and a pattern before the world, praiseworthy and proud before future generations.

I beseech God Almighty to grant eternal prosperity for the nation; resistance and steadfastness for the combatants on and behind the frontline; blessing and forgiveness for those martyred from the beginning of the movement, now and in the future; health and happiness for those who have suffered; patience and courage for those who have been left behind, and for the oppressed; bravery, sincerity and generosity for the army and other armed forces; long life for the leaders of the Islamic Republic; awareness and [word indistinct] for its ignorant and misguided opponents; abjectness and deterioration for its enemies and those bearing ill will toward it; unity and solidarity for the Muslims of the world; independence and greatness for Islamic countries; liberation from selfishness and rejection of the domination of foreigners for the leaders of the Islamic countries; and a knowledge of dear Islam and its greatness and power for all.

May Almighty God assist the armed forces and all the other combatants of Islam to overcome world blasphemy and bless us with the privilege of serving God. Greetings to the respectable military personnel and greetings to the Guards Corps and other armed forces.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi-Khomeyni, 18 April 1982

Rafsanjani Speech

LD181334 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Arp 82

[Text] Our correspondent reports on today's open session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. An open session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly started this morning with a recitation of verses from the holy Koran, and was chaired by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani. In this session the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly said:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Today is the day of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and is also the anniversary of the preservation of Jerusalem by the Muslims in the year 664 Hegira. The coincidence of these 2 days is interesting. We congratulate the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. One of the most valuable gains of the Islamic revolution of Iran is the great change which has taken place in the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The army has been transferred from the service of Satan to the service of God and the people and from captivity in the hands of the Pahlavi family and the shah, has come under the command of the religious jurisconsult and the hidden imam's deputy, the great Islamic character.

It has been freed from the yoke of foreign and American experts and Western satanic advisers and today it is the ruler of its own destiny. It has put aside stagnation and useless jobs and today it is a self-sacrificing, active, devoted and unique army in the world.

It is no longer lacking communication with the people and is no longer in a closed atmosphere. It has been changed into a popular, desirable and likable army evolving from the people themselves.

It has been freed from the empty and human-killing training, which had been programmed to tire and weaken them in the past, and under the teachings of the Koran, Islam and Nahj al-Balaqah [Imam 'Ali's book] and with the guidance of ideological-political brothers it is growing in an Islamic way.

Many discriminations have been eliminated and the army has rid itself of many of the satanic leaders who had divine rule in the army, such as the high-ranking commanders of the army; justice has been enforced there to a high extent and it is moving toward equality faster.

Fortunately, our people have accepted the army, which was under a question mark in the past, and so much change and so much progress in the army is interesting. We hope that in the future this army will become the army of the lord of the era [the hidden imam] and will serve purely Islam and the Koran, as it is doing now. [end recording]

In today's open session Mr Hasan Rohani, the legislative power's representative on the Supervisory Council of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, submitted a report on the condition of the organization of the Voice and Vision to the Majlis and described the issues that arose during the past year in connection with this organization and also next year's plans.

Regarding the streamlining of various departments of this organization and the measures taken toward greater mobility, he said: In the year ending in March 1982, 52 low-, medium- and high-power transmitters were commissioned. This figure will increase further this year and nine powerful and 5 medium-power transmitters and 74 television relay stations will start functioning. This will be a great change. In connection with the production of programs, Dr Rohani said: The task of the Voice and Vision in obtaining films becomes more difficult with time and this is due to the growth of the cultural and religious revolution of the people and the fact that foreign films are becoming useless.

He mentioned that the training of the manpower for the Voice and Vision has started and he paid tribute to this organization's producers. Regarding reconstruction in this organization he said: Last year we managed to destroy the two corrupt groups of the Mojahedin-e Khalq and Peykar in the Voice and Vision.

The representative of the legislative power on the Supervisory Council of the Voice and Vision said: We should have made Tehran a news center; last year, Tehran was admitted as one of the Asian news centers by the Asian news, and radio and television union.

Regarding foreign language programs, he said: In all we broadcast daily 37 hours of programs in 12 languages through various transmitters for the people of the world.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUES 856-858

856: 16 Apr Report

LD161842 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Apr 82

[Communique 856 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Yesterday, as a result of the artillery fire of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on enemy positions in the Meymak and Salehabad areas, one fuel tanker and several vehicles carrying enemy personnel were destroyed and the ambulances of the Iraqi forces were busy for hours transporting their dead and wounded.

Our forces' fire destroyed a quantity of ammunition in the Malekshahi area and killed several enemy personnel.

In the areas of Sumar and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, exchanges of fire continued, two vehicles, one observation post and several supply points of the aggressors were destroyed by the fire of the combatants of Islam in the aforesaid areas, and several Iraqi servicemen were killed or wounded.

In the Gilan-e Gharb area, as a result of the artillery units' fire the enemy's movements were stopped, and one tank emplacement and several trenches of various weapons were destroyed.

Exchanges of fire also continued in the Marivan area. As a result of our combatant units' fire in the Khurmal area and on enemy positions in (Shanderi), (Layadeh) and Bani Banuk, one fuel tanker and several of the supply points of the Saddamists were set on fire and several Iraqi servicemen were killed.

In the (Qanjveys) and Band-e Kabud areas fire by the Gendarmerie personnel of the Islamic Republic of Iran on enemy positions destroyed nine trenches and foxholes and one observation post of Saddam's troops and killed several Iraqi personnel.

In the Khorramshahr and Abadan areas, our forces opened fire on the enemy positions on the other side of the Arvand Rud and succeeded in destroying two ammunition dumps and several trenches and foxholes and in killing or wounding several enemy personnel.

Meanwhile, as a result of the enemy's heavy-weapon fire on the residential areas of Abadan, several of our compatriots were martyred or wounded.

Yesterday the self-sacrificing combatants of the air defense units, by opening timely fire, foiled the enemy aircrafts' intrusions and forced them to leave the airspace of the country's southern and western border cities.

857: 17 Apr Report

LD171846 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Communique 857 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God. With greetings to Imam Khomeyni, great leader of the revolution, founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran and commander in chief of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces, families of the dear martyrs, the Muslim nation of Iran, the entire self-sacrificing combatants of Islam and with blessings on the pure souls of martyrs of the battle of right against wrong on the occasion of Armed Forces Day, the public is hereby informed of operations carried out by the Islamic combatants on the battlefronts:

On the Salehabad, Sumar, Gilan-e Gharb and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab fronts, the self-sacrificing personnel of the army opened artillery, Katyusha and mortar fire on the positions of the aggressive Iraqi Army and, while silencing enemy fire, they destroyed several enemy supply and personnel positions.

The number of Saddam's army casualties on the Sumar front amounted to 12 and the enemy's losses in Sar-e Pol-e Zahab included the destruction of a 50-calibre field machinegun and one truck with all its occupants. The brave combatant tribesmen of the irregular warfare units continue to defend their positions, answering enemy fire and inflicting losses and casualties on the Iraqi forces.

On the Paveh front, as a result of the army's artillery fire, approximately 15 supply points of the Iraqi Army were destroyed and several enemy personnel were killed or injured.

On the southern fronts from 'Eyn Khosh to Khorramshahr, the victorious combatants of Islam are bravely defending their defensive positions and guarded zones with complete superiority, and with heavy-weapon and artillery fire they are preventing the Saddamist forces from making any move and activity and are inflicting crushing blows and casualties on them.

On the basis of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Gendarmerie report, yesterday an invading Iraqi Armed Forces helicopter was shot down by the Islamic Republic of Iran's Gendarmerie air defense unit stationed on the Abadan front.

As a result of fire from the gendarmerie combatants on the Saddamists' positions on the other side of the Arvand Rud, the Iraqi forces were prevented from moving. During these operations, one Iraqi radar and two bunkers were destroyed and several enemy personnel were killed.

On the Abadan-Khorramshahr front, the valiant navy personnel answered the Saddamists' fire and silenced it, destroying seven Iraqi bunkers, one fuel depot and one ammunition dump. Several of the Iraqi forces were killed or injured in this operation.

Some of Abadan's civilian sectors were once again under the Iraqi mercenaries' long-range artillery fire. The city sustained some losses and casualties as a result.

Following fire from the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces air defense units, the enemy's attempts to violate our airspace were repulsed, and the Iraqi invading aircraft were driven off and forced to flee.

858: 18 Apr Report

LD181824 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Communique 858 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The fighters of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, relying upon the power of faith and belief, courage and bravery, continue their battles against the mercenaries of world blasphemy and do not for a moment forget their holy covenant with the imam of the nation, the great Khomeyni, the vice regent [of the hidden imam], who continues the mission of the prophets of God and fights against the devils of the age. With their red martyrdom they safeguard Islam and protect the Islamic homeland.

The expressions of satisfaction by His Great Eminence Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution, founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran and commander in chief of the armed forces, concerning the fighters of Islam; and gracious messages of their great eminences the great ayatollahs and renowned scholars, national figures, revolutionary organizations, state organizations and departments; and the enthusiasm and support of the heroic and Muslim Iranian nation on the occasion of 18 April, Armed Forces Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran, are all sources of pride and gratitude to all the personnel of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They hope that with the assistance of God, as the result of greater victories, they will give a worthy response to the kindness, affection and legitimate expectations of the struggling people of the Islamic homeland.

According to a report by the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at 1030 today one enemy aircraft was shot down by one of our fighter aircraft near Abadan. In the Abadan region, our brave fighters, while destroying enemy fortifications, killed 30 Iraqi soldiers and set fire to one of their ammunition depots.

Also, by opening fire on the Al-Faw-Basrah road, they halted enemy movements and inflicted some losses and casualties upon the forces of Saddam.

Yesterday some residential areas of Abadan were destroyed by enemy heavy-weapon fire, resulting in a number of our compatriots being martyred or injured.

In the western regions of the country, our fighting units continued defense of their positions and repulsed enemy attacks with their heavy and continuous artillery fire. On each of the fronts of this region they inflicted some losses and casualties upon enemy personnel and equipment.

In the Meymak and Salehabad regions, one antiaircraft gun and one ammunition depot were destroyed and 17 of the aggressive forces were killed.

In the Sumar and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab regions, a quantity of enemy ammunition and one enemy vehicle carrying enemy personnel was set on fire and a few supply depots destroyed.

Enemy positions in Panjvin, Biarreh, Tutmal and Toveyleh came under the heavy-artillery fire of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran; while silencing enemy fire and destroying the supply depots of the forces of Saddam, 15 trenches and observation posts of the forces of Saddam were destroyed and at least 4 of the Iraqi forces were killed or wounded.

FORCES CAPTURE VILLAGES, OTHER POSITIONS

LD161906 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Apr 82

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the selfless guards of the Islamic Republic, together with Mobilization forces and Muslim Kurdish peshmerga, in an operation called Ansar Ollah and codenamed Ya Mohammad, which began on the morning of 13 April, the combatants of Islam succeeded in recapturing Hill No 101, the strategic (Kaltek) bridge and the village of Dehbagh on the Bala-Sar Dasht axis and have now taken their positions there.

In Bukan, the villages of (Valkov), (Savarchin) and (Qalahkand) were liberated from the hands of infidels and a 106-mm fieldgun was destroyed.

In Saqqez, the village of (Kachalmangan) was captured by the forces of Islam after crushing the rebels and three bases belonging to the mercenaries were completely destroyed by the Airborne Division helicopters. Two 50-calibre weapons belonging to the counterrevolutionaries were destroyed.

OFFENSIVE LAUNCHED AGAINST REBELS IN KORDESTAN

Villages 'Mopped Up'

LD171936 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Statement issued by Central Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Excerpt] At dawn on 15 April the forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, including brother guards, Mobilization combatants and the Muslim Kurdish peshmerga, launched an offensive on the concentration points belonging to the armed insurgents linked to the counterrevolutionaries on the Marivan-Kamyaran axis, killing or wounding a large number of insurgents.

During these operations, 13 villages, including the villages of (Tafheym), (Dehganan), (Gerehgoreh), (Goreydoor), (Bani Golan), (Adiyan), (Naftar), (Tozhang), [word indistinct] (Zineh) and the (Tashtar) and (Sorkeh Kod) heights, which were under the control of the counterrevolutionaries linked to the world of oppressors for the past 3 years, were completely mopped up.

During these operations, at least three counterrevolutionaries were killed, a number injured and some others were arrested by the Islamic combatants. Some light and RPG-7 weapons, radio and ammunition were seized.

Also, on 16 April during a successful operation launched by the guards brothers in Seyyed Sarem, under Baneh's jurisdiction, a large number of counterrevolutionaries were killed or wounded. During this operation, too, some weapons, including RPG-7's and firearms were seized. The village of (Kashkak), under Baneh's jurisdiction, was cleared of counterrevolutionaries.

Operations Continue

LD181822 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Excerpts] According to the Central News Unit, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' Public Relations Office has issued the following statement in connection with the continued mopping-up operations in the country's western region:

The forces of Islam, including valiant members of the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps forces, consisting of guards brothers, Corps Mobilization combatants and Muslim Kurdish peshmerga, while continuing their mopping-up operations in the country's western regions, succeeded in crushing one of the great Satan's operational centers and while clearing some areas in the Marivan-Kamyaran axis area, managed to establish their positions.

During these operations -- which led to the killing and injuring of a further group of armed insurgents -- six vehicles, four bulldozers, eight fuel trucks and some arms, ammunition and supplies belonging to counterrevolutionaries were seized.

The forces of Islam, in operations carried out in the Baneh region, cleared villages of [words indistinct]. At least 12 counterrevolutionary elements and members of Komeleh and Kurdish Democratic Party groups were killed and a further 12 were injured.

Kurds Killed, Wounded

NC170900 Paris AFP in English 0851 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Text] Tehran, 17 Apr (AFP) -- More than 200 Kurdish "counter-revolutionaries" were killed or wounded during two "clean-up operations" in Kordestan Province in northwest Iran on Wednesday and Thursday, communiques carried by the Iranian newspaper ISLAMIC REPUBLIC said today.

100 "counter-revolutionaries" were killed and 100 wounded during police operations in three villages near Bukan on Wednesday, the report said.

Three members of the government forces were also killed in the clashes and four wounded.

On Thursday, Iranian forces "liberated" strategic hills and 13 villages controlled by Kurdish rebels for three years, the newspaper said. 30 opponents of the Islamic Republic died and many were wounded during the fighting.

DETAILS OF 18 APR CABINET SESSION REPORTED

LD181440 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the Cabinet held a session this morning under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi. After reviewing the war news, the latest political and social developments in the country and the region were discussed.

Concerning the issues raised in this session, [government spokesman] Ahmad Tavakkoli told our correspondent that Commerce Minister 'Asgar-Owladi first submitted a report on his meeting with the Pakistani economic delegation which is currently visiting Tehran in order to hold some talks, and the progress made in this connection.

Then Foreign Minister Velayati submitted a report on the attacks carried out by the forces attached to Zionism and the left wing in Lebanon against the Muslims and the measures taken to oppose these clashes.

Mr Tavakkoli added that we strongly condemn these movements and know that they are aimed at diverting the main struggle against Israel.

He went on to say that, continuing today's session of the Cabinet, Mr (?Nasri), the governor general of Bushehr, who was present at the session, submitted a report on the situation in the province and the difficulties in connection with water and electricity shortages and also fisheries and smuggling in this region, and decisions were adopted toward combatting these problems.

Concerning the Islamic councils bill, the government spokesman said that today a bill on the formation of the councils of industrial workshops will be sent to the Majlis and we hope that it will be approved as soon as possible.

Then, displaying a quantity of gold and jewellery which has been presented to the Cabinet by our homeland's devoted people, Mr Tavakkoli said that this was given to the Cabinet as a gift by the people of Paveh at this week's Friday prayers. Some ladies gave their ornaments to the Cabinet as a present; their value is obvious. The workers of the Pars alum factory have also given 500,000 rials in cash to the government as a present.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN ON CORDOVEZ MISSION

LD181900 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the UN secretary general's special envoy, Diego Cordovez, who is entrusted with the mission of seeking a settlement to the Afghanistan issue, has arrived in Tehran on a factfinding mission to learn about the Islamic Republic of Iran's views and stands concerning the issue of Afghanistan. Before coming to Tehran the envoy visited Afghanistan and Pakistan.

A Central News Unit correspondent asked the Foreign Ministry spokesman for his views concerning the UN special envoy's visit to Iran.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said: Any group, body and individual who wishes to mediate and to seek a settlement to the Afghanistan issue within our proposed framework will be supported by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The spokesman added: Concerning the issue, the principle conditions must be implemented. These conditions include: The Soviet Union's unconditional withdrawal from Afghanistan; the unacceptability of replacing the Soviet occupying force with any foreign force; the return of Afghan refugees to their homeland; and allowing the people of Afghanistan to choose their destiny and their sovereignty.

ISLAMIC CONGRESS DELEGATION RETURNS TO TEHRAN

LD171948 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Mohamed Hanifa Mohamed, Sri Lankan official responsible for Muslim affairs, and the secretary general of the World Islamic Congress arrived in Tehran this afternoon. They are here to familiarize themselves with the Islamic Republic's views on the war imposed by Iraq on Iran. They were welcomed by Deputy Foreign Minister 'Azizi.

This report says that this is the second visit to Iran by the World Islamic Congress delegation in the last week. On the first visit the delegation met President Khamene'i, who reiterated the Islamic Republic's earlier terms. The report adds that the delegation has met with the Iraqi authorities in Baghdad in the last few days. On his arrival in Tehran, Mohamed Hanifa Mohamed, leader of the delegation, spoke on the delegation's visit to a Central News Unit correspondent at the airport saying: We have come to Iran bringing positive proposals.

Referring to the delegation's talks in Tehran and Baghdad, he said: We are here to pursue our endeavors.

Our correspondent reports that the mediating delegation this afternoon held a meeting at the Foreign Ministry with Foreign Minister Velayati, his deputy and the ministry's under secretaries.

RAFSANJANI ADDRESSES FOREIGN, DOMESTIC ISSUES

LD161536 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Apr 82

[Text] Political-religious Friday prayers ceremonies were held all over the country today and millions of our Muslim compatriots took part. As on previous Fridays, Tehran University was the meeting place of a great mass of revolutionary people of Tehran who held their Friday prayers -- this eternal tradition left by Muhammad -- under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the acting Friday imam of Tehran.

In his first sermon, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani continued his discussion from previous weeks on the economic dimension of social justice from the points of view of the Koran and Islam. Referring to the issue of overt and covert differences among human beings, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The point is that people are not similar and equal from every point of view.

Giving some examples, he stated: People have different tastes, ideas and characters. It will always be thus as long as the world exists, and these differences among human beings increase when they exploit nature's resources.

The acting Friday imam of Tehran then referred to the issue of controlling talents in order to make proper use of them in society. Commenting on the (?economic) side of the issue, he stated: The selfish nature of mankind is limitless. Mankind is a creature that demands boundless and unlimited things. Thus a human being is created greedy and selfish. Therefore, he must be controlled by society.

Referring to the extravagance and excesses of Marxism and capitalism in various fields, including ownership, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Today it is not possible to find a communist country where there is no private ownership; and there is no capitalist country free of state ownership.

The acting Friday imam of Tehran then referred to the teaching of Islam, which turns a selfish human being into a devoted and self-sacrificing person. Giving some examples of self-sacrifices of the various strata of the nation on the battlefronts, he added: These kinds of controls are the main foundations of the work of Islam. Islam believes that people are selfish, but does not deal with mankind with the excesses practiced by Marxism and capitalism. Islam has had both private and state ownership right from the start. The conclusion is that mankind thinks of ways to control the differences among human beings. Control of the profit-seeking motive is one of the teachings of Islam, which controls and properly guides these motives.

In his second sermon, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to current issues. In connection with the recent move of the nation of Palestine, he said:

[Begin recording] They have shouted the Islamic slogans of "God is great" and "There is no god but God." If they are correct, I am not sure [as heard]. The slogans are similar to those in Iran. They have chanted slogans in support of the imam's leadership.

Of course, we are not claiming that Iran should liberate Palestine. The leadership referred to here is spiritual leadership. That is, the movement that the imam started and launched is understood by every Muslim to be correct. We only expect the imam's ideas, methods and ways to be chosen. Otherwise, Palestine must be run by Palestinians themselves, and at present by the PLO. We do not have any other legitimate and important center for control of these movements. They must run Palestine.

If this statement is true, there are some considerations that arise from it. These considerations should be important. That is, if they rely on Islam, they should understand that the sultans of oil, who are ruling under the name of Islam and have placed oil at the disposal of blasphemy and Zionism, these idols can no longer be considered supporters of Palestine. They must understand that from now on the reactionary Arabs, who have joined hands and united with the United States against the oppressed masses, cannot remain the vanguard of the Islamic movement. If they have realized this and have started this way, then their movement will lead somewhere. It would then be possible to be hopeful about this movement and Muslims of the world could invest and come forward. If the governments do not want to do so, it does not matter. People will go and carry out justice themselves. They will move with justice and governments will be forced to back them. If it is done this way, we shall be near the route for the liberation of Palestine.

I assure you that if they change their slogans, the limited nationalist slogans [sentence left unfinished]. Of course, nationalism includes liberation of Palestine, which itself is an Islamic (?root). But their aim is to liberate Palestine and I am saying that the detonator of this movement and its engine must be Islam. Then eventually we can reach an Islamic government in Palestine. In this case, after the victory there would be no sign of the leftists, the leftists who have dragged Lebanon into this black chaos. They cannot then come and demand to have a share of everything.

The Islamic movement and the Islamic path for the liberation of Palestine is the important issue.

The important point, which is conspicuous now, is that conspiracies have started up again. What is the U.S. representative in the region seeking? What is the aim of the shah of Jordan in going to Kuwait? What are the leftists saying in Lebanon? See how they have employed all their agents. Leftists of Lebanon have moved and waged war against the Shi'a people in the south of Lebanon since it became clear that the Palestinian movement is predominantly Islamic. They avenge themselves against the Shi'a in Lebanon on behalf of the people in Jerusalem.

In south Lebanon people stick portraits of the imam and the flag of the Islamic Republic on the walls of their houses. What is the Islamic Republic doing there? What are the leftists saying in this arena? The answer is clear, they want the same thing that they were seeking in Iran.

The Peykar organization, the Mojahedin-e Khalq and their ilk in Iran were chanting modern leftist slogans in defense of the deprived masses. When the liberal wing was defeated and when Bani-Sadr was deposed they drew their swords against the deprived people. They planted bombs in thoroughfares, mosques and railroad stations. They exploded a bomb in the Khas-e 'Am Mosque in Rasht. They kill Friday imams, the late Dastgheyb and Madani and others.

What is the connection between these things? The connection is that the start of the movement was an Islamic movement and the ferment of the movement in Islamic thinking. Islamic thinking began with the Islamic Republic and the imam. Moreover, the leftists are lying when they claim to be leftists. Of course, even if they are true leftists we still do not accept them. To us left and right are the same. Both of them will go to hell. But the important point is that they are lying. The capitalist strata and the rich are not attracted by any slogan. They are only attracted to opium pipes and braziers.

The fact that they can move, strive for hard work and such things, including, for instance, the slogan that work is the right of the workers, houses and all such things could be started in motion. [sentence as heard] The same applies to Lebanon and Iran. The Lebanese groups are called leftists but they receive their funds from Saddam, who in turn received from from the United States, for although he has money he receives gifts from the United States.

After 18 months of covert support they were forced to issue orders to give Iraq 12 U.S. transport aircraft, which are among the world's strategic goods. This is coming out in the open now. The result is the same. It begins from the White House, it passes through the oil wells of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Dubai, Iraq and to such personages as Saddam, Shah Husayn, Shah Hassan, Khalid and their ilk; and through these people the funds are paid out and the Mojahedin-e Khalq and hypocrites receive their funds from Saudi Arabia, from Saddam, and the same goes for various radios and newspapers.

In short, all these are tarred by the same brush and are working hand in glove. Though the Islamic movement has begun in Palestine these people drop their bombs on the heads of the Shi'ite people in southern Lebanon. Now, who drops these but a communist party which has hitherto issued anti-Israeli slogans? These leftists, nationalists and treacherous groups which dragged Lebanon through blood and mire receive their funds from the Saudi Embassy, from the 'Aflaqite Arab Ba'th and elsewhere and run their newspapers on such money.

I beg to tell the Palestinian people: Dear brothers, stay awake: If you are dragged into talks you will lose; if you are dragged into mediation by the shaykhs, sultans and spurious presidents you will lose. It is only through your own strength, path, blood, martyrdom that you can make progress. If you are on the battlefield and give your blood, lose your lives, give up your properties and suffer losses, the world's people will follow you and the governments, who for years have issued anti-Israeli slogans, would not dare to oppose you. They would be forced to come along. The only thing is that you should not permit them to interfere in your work.

Another important reminder is that you should keep up the continuity of struggle, for piecemeal struggles are fruitless. You should stand up until the job is done, and wherever you stand the dangers are there.

The third reminder is that you need (?more) struggle, but struggle within the limits of protest is not enough, for tomorrow it should be turned into an economic blockade of the enemy. You should bring pressure to bear on the regimes which depend on your oil such as the Mitterrands, the Germans and other places [as heard] with whose weapons, funds and support they are crushing you, and you should finish with these people.

Next comes the fourth phase, whereby the armed liberation crusade should begin, the Islamic forces should come in and you should not accept communist forces, for if these people were to join your ranks they would not add anything to your stock except madness and they would proceed to sow discord in your ranks and they would continuously make demands.

Let the pure Muslims of when we will be at the forefront, come along and give their blood at your side until we crush Israel and liberate Palestine. [end recording]

Tehran's provisional Friday imam, continuing his second sermon and extolling the steps taken by the country of our brother in closing its borders with Iraq, including halting the export of Iraqi oil from that country, referred to the auspicious birthday of the holy and great truthful one, Fatimah az-Zahra -- may God's peace be upon her -- and Women's Day, and addressing himself to our sisters said: The personality of the holy Az-Zahra -- may peace be upon her -- is such that we are incapable of comprehending the profound dimensions of that personality.

Citing examples of the troubled and difficult life of construction of the dear daughter of the most generous apostle -- may God's benedictions and peace be upon him and his scion, the onerous responsibilities of the holy Fatimah az-Zahra -- may God's peace be upon her -- at various dimensions as peerless models which constitute the best example for the life of mankind. [sentence as heard]

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani then called on the revolutionary Muslims in a Paris jail, who have been on hunger strike for some time in protest against the injustices of the French Socialist Party, to break their hunger strike and be assured that the Islamic Republic of Iran will exact their rights from France.

In conclusion, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, addressing our Arab Muslim brothers and sisters, read a sermon in Arabic.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS ON ATTEMPTED COUP REPORTED

Nateq-Nuri: Clergy Involved

LD181006 Tehran IRNA in English 0924 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Text] Tehran, 18 Apr (IRNA) -- Minister of the Interior Nateq-Nuri Saturday said that in the recent abortive coup d'etat, led by Sadeq Qotbzadeh, a group of so-called ulema of Tehran and Qom and a number of the remnants of the former regime in the army and fugitive monarchists had also been involved.

Nuri, who was speaking in Tabriz, East Azarbayjan Province, at a press conference, added that the coup designers had the intention to explode Jamaran (Imam Khomeyni's residence) in order to martyr the imam. Then, under the pretext that officials were not able to protect the imam's life, they would kill all those responsible and take power, the minister remarked.

The plot was discovered and all involved in it, as well as Qotbzadeh, who had confessed the details of the plot were arrested, he said.

Referring to the activities of legal political groups, Nateq-Nuri said that the bill for the activities of such parties had been approved by the Majlis and relevant executive regulations, compiled by his ministry, would be soon published. These groups, he noted, were authorised to be active within the framework of the regulations. Commenting on the delegation of authority of the commander in chief of the security forces the interior minister said that by such a measure the imam had asked for speedy implementation of a series of activities relevant to security issues. Nateq-Nuri added that the Majlis delegated administration of the Islamic revolutionary committees to the Interior Ministry. He hoped that the committees, along with other security organisations, would be independently active since there was still a need for their active presence.

Meanwhile the second day of the joint seminar of Majlis deputies, Friday prayers leaders, governors and heads of revolutionary institutions of East Azarbayjan Province, ended its work with statements of Nateq-Nuri, Saturday. He called on the governors to fully cooperate with the ulema and revolutionary organisations.

Shari'atmadari House Raided

LD171100 Hamburg DPA in German 1017 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Excerpt] Hamburg/Tehran, 17 Apr (DPA) -- The house, main office and theological center of the Iranian Shi'ite leader Ayatollah Seyyed Kazem Shari'atmadari, considered a moderate, are said to have been stormed on Friday in the holy city of Qom by fanatics and revolution guards. This was announced by his son in Hamburg in a press statement given to DPA on Saturday.

According to Hasan Shari'atmadari, the fanatics had been incited by Hojjat ol-Eslam Meshkini in Qom. During the storming of the house, several visitors were attacked and two sons-in-law of the ayatollah, who were among his closest staff, and several guests were arrested. Since then Shari'atmadari's house has been systematically watched by revolution guards. The ayatollah was under house arrest and was not allowed to receive visitors.

AFP Report

NC171512 Paris AFP in English 1458 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Text] Tehran, 17 Apr (AFP) -- Ahmad 'Abbasi, the son-in-law of leading Shi'ite clergyman Shari'atmadari, reportedly supplied money to former Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh, now under arrest for plotting to kill Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, KEYHAN newspaper reported today quoting Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali.

Ayatollah Khalkhali said that Mr 'Abbasi, "who takes care of business affairs for his father-in-law, reportedly made 20 million rials (about 250,000 dollars) available to Sadeq Qotbzadeh".

Mr 'Abbasi was arrested Wednesday in Qom, 160 km (100 miles) south of Tehran, and the Qom offices of Ayatollah Shari'atmadari occupied yesterday by "people of the city", KEYHAN said today.

Mr Qotbzadeh's arrest on charges of involvement in an alleged attempt to kill Ayatollah Khomeyni, Iran's spiritual leader, was reported in a communique of the revolutionary tribunal of the Iranian Armed Forces on April 10.

"Shari'atmadari's house was not attacked, but his bodyguards were disarmed and replaced by revolutionary guards. The ayatollah is doing well," said Ayatollah Khalkhali, formerly a roving judge for Iranian revolutionary courts.

According to KEYHAN, "radio receiver-transmitters and tapes with counter-revolutionary contents were discovered" in the office of Ayatollah Shari'atmadari.

Ayatollah Khalkhali, member of Parliament from Qom, said he "had played no role in what happened".

He said that following Friday's prayer and a radio speech by influential Tehran Parliament Member Fakhreddin Hejazi announcing arrests of people involved in the alleged plot, "the people came down into the street" Mr 'Abbasi's name was not released until today, however.

Ayatollah "'Ozma" (the Great) Shari'atmadari, 84, is the spiritual leader of Tabriz, the capital of Azarbayjan in the northwest. He withdrew from Iranian politics after disagreeing with the Islamic Republic's draft constitution, published in 1979.

Revolutionary Prosecutor Musavi-Tabrizi said in a statement in ETTELA'AT newspaper that one should not describe the plot as a "coup d'etat" since the people involved were not "a strong and solid group with army support".

Mr Tabrizi said that among the people arrested, whose total number and identities have not been made public, were "one or two members of the clergy, isolated from Tehran, and two soldiers dismissed from the army, as well as a soldier still in the army".

AFP: Over 1,000 Arrested

NC171919 Paris AFP in English 1901 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Excerpts] Tehran, 17 Apr (AFP) -- More than 1,000 persons have reportedly been arrested in Iran in a campaign to crush an anti-government plot that has for the first time cast suspicion on members of the high Shi'ite clergy which forms the backbone of the Islamic revolutionary regime.

Former Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh is under arrest, charged with plotting to kill Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni.

Ahmad 'Abbasi, son-in-law of leading Shi'ite clergyman Ayatollah Shari'atmadari, is under arrest for allegedly supplying 20 million rials (about 250,000 dollars) to Mr Qotbzadeh.

Revolutionary Prosecutor Musavi-Tabrizi said in a statement to the ETTELA'AT newspaper that the anti-government plot should not be considered "a coup d'etat" since those involved were not "a strong and solid group with army support."

He said those arrested, without specifying their number, included "one or two members of the clergy, isolated from Tehran, and two soldiers dismissed from the army, as well as a soldier still in the army."

Reliable sources in Tehran, however, said more than 1,000 people had been arrested, mostly middle class professionals from Tehran and Qom, but including clergymen and dozens of revolutionary guards.

Members of the clergy were implicated this week by press statements such as that in today's edition of the Tehran newspaper KEYHAN, which called for "the purge of the clergy and explusion from its ranks of corrupt elements plotting under the pretext of defending either Islam or freedom."

PAKISTANI FINANCE MINISTER ARRIVES IN TEHRAN

LD171146 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, in implementation of the new economic agreements between Iran and Pakistan, which were reached during our foreign minister's visit to Islamabad, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, a senior minister in the Pakistani Government, who is also in charge of economic planning, arrived in Tehran this afternoon. He was welcomed by Minister of Commerce 'Asgar-Owladi and several officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who is Pakistan's minister of finance, economy, commerce and planning [as heard], will supervise three Pakistani negotiating delegations in Tehran. Pakistan's deputy ministers of commerce, petroleum, roads and railways are members of these delegations.

On his arrival in Tehran, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan told our correspondent: We are prepared to negotiate in Tehran about Pakistan's requirements, things that we want to purchase from Iran and which of Iran's requirements Pakistan can supply. We hope to reach a mutually beneficial agreement.

According to the Central News Unit, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan arrived in Zahedan this morning en route to Tehran. He was welcomed by the governor general of Sistan va Baluchestan and other officials of this province. He stopped in Zahedan for an hour and had talks with the governor general of Sistan va Baluchestan.

Economic Talks Begin

LD171930 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Iranian and Pakistani delegations opened talks this afternoon aimed at the expansion of reciprocal trade and economic relations. The two delegations are headed by Iranian Commerce Minister Mr 'Asgar-Owladi and Pakistani Finance Minister Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan. Members of the Pakistani delegation include the petroleum, commerce and communications under secretaries.

Commenting on bilateral relations, the Iranian minister said that Iran is on the verge of economic planning and is pursuing a policy of importing its requirements from its friendly neighbors.

The Pakistani finance minister also stressed the importance of relations between Iran and Pakistan as relations between two Muslim and friendly countries.

According to our correspondent, the current Iran-Pakistan talks will continue until next Tuesday within the framework of three specialist committees of commerce, petroleum and communications. The Pakistani minister is also expected to hold separate talks with top Iranian officials.

Meeting With Velayati

LD181228 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Pakistani minister of economics, finance and commerce, who has come to Tehran at the head of an economic delegation, this morning met and conferred with Foreign Minister Velayati. The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister 'Azizi and Kazempur-Ardabili, head of economic and international affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Expanding trade, economic and commercial relations between the two Muslim countries of Iran and Pakistan were discussed and subjected to exchanges of view.

Meeting With Khamene'i

LD182244 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Pakistani delegation led by Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the minister of finance and commerce [title as heard] of that country, today met with Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the Islamic president of Iran. Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan made a speech at the beginning this meeting.

He said that his discussions with the officials of our country were useful and constructive and that he is optimistic about expanding the two neighboring countries' relations in various fields. Referring to the need for Islamic unity, he said: If the Islamic nation is a single nation, then we have drawn only artificial lines on various maps.

Referring to the wealth of natural resources -- especially energy resources -- in most Islamic countries, Mr Khamene'i then said that cooperation between Islamic countries will be useful for Muslim people. He then proposed that a common Islamic market be formed, that the groundwork should be laid to form this market.

At the end of this meeting, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Pakistan's minister of finance and commerce, presented Mr Khamene'i with Mr Ziaul Haq's invitation to visit Pakistan. He then gave him a copy of the glorious Koran.

Meeting With Namazi

LD181252 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Excerpt] While the economic talks between Iran and Pakistan are taking place in Tehran within the framework of the oil and transport committees, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Pakistani minister of economics, finance, commerce and planning, who is heading a delegation from his country, today met high-level economic and political officials of our country.

The Central News Unit correspondent reports that delegation head, Mr Ghulum Ishaq Khan, with a number of members of the delegation and the Pakistani ambassador to Tehran, this morning met with Mr Namazi, minister of economy and finance. This meeting was attended by the deputy minister of economy and finance, the managing director of the Iranian foreign investments and technical aid corporation and the Iranian ambassador to Pakistan. The two sides stressed the need to expand economic relations between Muslim countries and, in the context of the economic and financial programs of the two countries, methods of repayment of loans given to Pakistan by Iran were studied.